GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5232
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
PROBLEMS OF OPIUM GROWERS
Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations regarding the problems of the opium growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problems of opium growers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received, from time to time, regarding the problems of the opium cultivators.

(b) The main problems highlighted in the representation pertain to cancellation of licence, fixation of the Minimum Qualifying Yield criteria for grant of licence, testing of opium for determination of grade, compensation on account of damage to the opium crop, uprooting of the opium crop under Departmental supervision, renewal of licence in case of damage to the poppy crop due to natural calamity, expansion of opium cultivation area by issue of new licence, increase in the procurement price of opium, etc.

(c) Over the years several measures have been taken to solve the problems of opium cultivators. All representations relating to the problems of cultivators are attended to and remedial action taken to resolve the same. The Opium Licensing Order, which lays down the conditions of licence, for any crop year is finalized after considering the problems faced by the opium cultivators in the preceding crop year. Efforts are made to promptly attend to the supervision of uprooting of the unlanced opium crop in all cases where application for uprooting of such crop is received. In other cases also, action is initiated to conduct survey of the concerned areas to ascertain the extent of damage to the poppy crop, if any, due to natural calamity, etc. Periodic meetings of the Grievance /Advisory Committees are held at the Unit Headquarters to redress the grievances of cultivators and suggestions received are examined for appropriate action.